

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 4, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 15, 19, 20, and 27. Applicants cancel Claims 9, 18, and 23-26 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also add new Claims 28-45, which are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend Claims 1 and 11 to include elements of allowable Claims 9 and 18, respectively, thus placing Claims 1 and 11 in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. As discussed below, Applicants additionally amend Claims 20 and 27 to include elements of Claim 9 that the Examiner indicates are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references. Furthermore, Applicants add new Claims 30, 37, and 43, which include elements of allowable Claim 10 that the Examiner indicates are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references.

Applicants wish to note that, with respect to all amendments and cancellations herein, Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader subject matter than that presently claimed through the filing of continuations and/or other related applications.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 11-12, 14, 16-17, 20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,860,065, issued to Griffin et al. ("Griffin"). As noted above, Applicants amend Claims 1 and 11 to include elements of Claims 9 and 18, respectively, thereby placing Claims 9 and 18 in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Additionally, Applicants amend Claims 20 and 27 to include elements of Claim 9 that the Examiner indicates are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references. Claims 1, 11, 20, and 27 are thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 11, 20, and 27, and their respective dependents.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Griffin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,046,562 issued to Emil ("Emil"). Claim 2 depends from Claim 1, which has been shown above to be allowable. Claim 2 is thus allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 2.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 28-45, which are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. Claims 28 and 29 depend from Claims 11 and 20, respectively, which have been shown above to be allowable. Claims 28 and 29 are thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request consideration and full allowance of new Claims 28 and 29.

Claims 30, 37, and 43 include elements of original Claim 10 that the Examiner indicates are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited references. New Claims 30, 37, and 43 are thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request consideration and full allowance of new Claims 30, 37, and 43, and their respective dependents.

Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

A check in the amount of \$400.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for additional claims. No other fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Todd A. Cason
Reg. No. 54,020

2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 600
Dallas, Texas 75201-2980
(214) 953-6452

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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer Number:

05073